

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 TRSE-00 ACDA-12  
HA-05 /127 W

-----037087 011816Z /40

R 011300Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 790

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY COANAKRY

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

RUEH R/AMEMBASSY LOME 7700

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 804

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, CU, CG, LY, AG

SUBJ: BENIN: DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY IN AFTERMATH OF SHABA

SUMMARY: WHILE BENIN GOVERNMENT HAS REMAINED SILENT ON SHABA  
INVASION, ZARIAN EMBASSY HAS CIRCULATED NOTE ACCUSING SOVIETS,  
CUBANS, AND LIBYANS OF COMPLICITY. SOVIETS IGNORED NOTE BUT  
LIBYANS AND CUBANS HAVE CATEGORICALLY DENIED INVOLVEMENT.  
END SUMMARY.

1. ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN (GPRB)  
HAS MAINTAINED CAREFUL SILENCE ON SHABA INVASION -- SEMI-  
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OFFICIAL DAILY "EHUZU" AND VOICE OF THE REVOLUTION HAVE MADE NO  
MENTION OF ZAIRE -- DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES OF THREE INTER-  
ESTED PARTIES HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING DIPLOMATIC NOTES  
CONTAINING ACCUSATIONS, DENIALS, AND COUNTER-ACCUSATIONS.  
ON MAY 18, ZAIRE EMBASSY IN COTONOU ISSUED CIRCULAR NOTE TO  
ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, CONSULATES, AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANI-  
ZATIONS ACCREDITED TO BENIN DENOUNCING THE ATTACK MAY 11/12 ON

KOLWEZI BY REBELS COMING FROM ANGOLA VIA ZAMBIA. NOTE STATED THAT ZAIRIAN SECURITY SERVICES HAD KNOWN FROM THE BEGINNING OF PREPARATIONS FOR THIS "RUSSO-CUBAN INVASION SUPPORTED BY ANGOLA WITH THE COMPLICITY OF ALGERIA AND LIBYA." NOTE SAID SAMBIAN TERRITORY HAD SERVED AS A "TRAMPOLINE" FOR REBEL ATTACK. NOTE FURTHER STATED THAT ZAIRIAN PRESIDENT, AWARE OF THESE "DIABOLICAL PLANS", HAD ALREADY SUMMONED REPS OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED AS WELL AS THOSE OF FRIENDLY COUNTRIES, TO GIVE THEM A FULL PERSPECTIVE ON THE OPERATION WHICH WAS ENTITLED "OPERATION DOVE" (OPERATION COLOMBE). ACCORDING TO NOTE, INFO IN THE HANDS OF ZAIRIAN AUTHORITIES SHOWS THAT THE REBELS WHO ATTACKED THE TOWN OF KOLWEZI NUMBERED 4,000, BUT NOT WISHING TO COMPROMISE THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT PASSED THROUGH THE ZAMBIAN FRONTIER WHICH IS INADEQUATELY PATROLLED BY THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT. NOTE SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN PROVED THAT THE REBELS HAD BEEN ARMED BY THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF ALGERIA, LIBYA, AND THAT THEIR BASES WERE IN ANGOLA ITSELF. NOTE CONCLUDED WITH CONDEMNATION OF THESE "BARBARIC AND DIABOLICAL METHODS" OF ARMING HIGHWAY ROBBERS IN ORDER TO UPSET SECURITY AND SOW DISORDER, DESOLATION AND DEATH IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES WHO ASPIRE ONLY TO BE ABLE TO WORK IN PEACE. ZAIRIAN EMBASSY PROCLAIMED THE COUNTRY'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S FIRM DETERMINATION TO HAVE ZAIRE'S FRONTIERS AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY RESPECTED.

2. WHILE SOVIETS SIMPLY REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE NOTE, LIBYAN  
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EMBASSY RESPONDED WITH ITS OWN DIPLOMATIC NOTE, TRANSMITTING TEXT OF PROTEST DELIVERED TO ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR IN TRIPOLI BY LIBYAN GOVERNMENT. IN MESSAGE LIBYANS ENERGETICALLY REFUTED AND PROTESTED FALSE ALLEGATIONS AND CHALLENGED ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT TO PRESENT ANY PROOF OF ANY NATURE WHICH COULD JUSTIFY ZAIRE'S GRATUITOUS ALLEGATIONS "ABOUT LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT IN REBEL ATTACK ON SHABA PROVINCE." MESSAGE STATED THAT "COLONIAL AND REACTIONARY AFRICAN FORCES CONTINUALLY TRY TO ASCRIBE TO THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT THEIR OWN MISDEEDS, SINCE LIBYA HAS BECOME ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL FORCES FOR UNIFICATION OF AFRICA AGAINST INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM AND ITS AFRICAN VALETS." CITING ITS ATTEMPT TO PROMOTE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION BETWEEN RIVAL FACTIONS IN THE SUDAN AND IN CHAD, LIBYANS SAID THEY HAD NEVER INTERVENED MILITARILY EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANY AFRICAN STATE.

3. CUBAN EMBASSY IN BENIN WAITED UNTIL MAY 24 TO CIRCULATE ITS REPLY. "CATEGORICALLY DENYING THE FALSE ALLEGATIONS OF THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT." CUBANS SAID THAT THEY RECALLED SIMILAR ACCUSATIONS MADE A YEAR AGO BY THE MOBUTU REGIME WHEN IT HAD UNILATERALLY DECIDED TO BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN ZAIRE AND CUBA. NOTE SAID THAT IN PAST AS IN PRESENT MOBUTU'S AFFIR-

MATIONS WERE UNTRUE. DESCRIBING REGIME AS ONE OF THE MOST  
REACTIONARY, PRO-IMPERIALIST, SANGUINARY, AND CORRUPT  
GOVERNMENTS IN AFRICA, CUBANS SAID THAONDECLARATIONS WERE ACTU-  
ALLY THOSE OF FORMER COLONIAL POWERS AND WERE MERELY A MEANS  
TO HELP ZAIRIAN REGIME OUT OF MAJOR INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES  
SOLELY OF ITS OWN MAKING. CUBAN GOVERNMENT REITERATED THAT IT  
HAS NO LINKS WITH FORCES FIGHTING IN SHABA OR ANY CONNECTION  
WITH DEVELOPMENTS TAKING PLACE IN THAT PROVINCE. THOMPSON

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## Message Attributes

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